



U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Facial Comparison Technology Testing

FACT SHEET

BACKGROUND

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is evaluating technologies and deploying new capabilities to improve operational processes at U.S. ports of entry. Beginning in March through May 2015, CBP will test facial comparison technology at Washington Dulles International Airport. This project will focus on U.S. citizens presenting an ePassport when returning to the United States. CBP established biometric screening procedures based on fingerprints for non-U.S. citizens in 2004.

DESCRIPTION

The 1:1 Face ePassport project is a short-term, biometric project that will assist in determining the feasibility of using facial comparison technology to help identify imposters attempting to enter the country using U.S. ePassports. The U.S. Department of State stored the passport bearer's digital photo within the ePassport chip to enable the use of biometric comparison for border security, law enforcement, counterterrorism, and fraud prevention at the border. This technology is only one of many tools CBP officers will use to make admissibility decisions. A CBP officer, not the system, will make all decisions concerning entry into the United States.

The operational goals of this project are to:

- **Determine the viability of facial comparison technology to assist officers in identifying possible imposters; and**
- **Determine if facial comparison technology can easily be incorporated into the current arrival process.**

BIOMETRIC PROCESS

During the project, randomly selected travelers will be directed to inspection booths equipped with facial comparison technology. The technology will compare an image of the traveler taken



during the normal inspection process to the image stored in the U.S. ePassport. The images taken will be used for purposes of this limited project only and will not be stored or shared with any other party or system. CBP is dedicated to protecting the privacy of all travelers.

BENEFITS

This short-term, biometric project has the potential to:

- **Enhance national security;**
- **Eliminate the imposter threat;**
- **Advance the integration of multiple biometrics into the inspection process; and**
- **Transform the passenger inspection process.**

Ultimately, this project will provide officers with an automated tool to assist in the identification of possible fraud. It is anticipated that travelers will experience little or no delay during the inspection process. CBP officers will use the results in addition to their standard screening methods to verify that the person applying for entry into the United States is the same person to whom the ePassport was legally issued.

Following the project, CBP will conduct a full evaluation to inform the next steps to advance the CBP mission. ■